



October 20, 2023

The Weekender

A joyful future

Dr. Thomas Martin, Senior Minister

Monday night, after dropping our son off for soccer practice, I was amazed by how many kids there were playing soccer. Growing up in the late 1900's, soccer was a relatively new phenomenon in Midland, GA. That's where we lived when I first began to play. It was there that I was (wrongly) told that using your elbows didn't count as a handball because it wasn't your—hand—you could touch the ball with your elbow. Imagine my embarrassment in my first game when I learned that wasn't true.



What I witnessed Monday night was literally hundreds of kids in Fayette County playing soccer, many of them fractions of my age and way better than I ever was or will be (including my son). Not that I was thinking about the future of soccer when I was five years old, but I knew I liked the sport and I wanted it to grow. Now look at where we are today for those soccer fans in America. Someone took initiative, grew the sport, developed leaders, coaches, and referees and a love for the game.

I often think a lot about the future of the church. What will it look like in 35-40 years? I do not know. And I refuse to think about what that might be in a negative light, looking back, or painting a worst case scenario of cultural relevance. Instead, I choose to be the church today for the church tomorrow. Our church continues to build leaders and supporters and those with a love for Christ. Growth may not look as exponential as hundreds of kids playing soccer on a Monday night, but why not? What is stopping us from telling the good news of Jesus Christ and being so passionate about what we do that we cannot help but bring others in?

I hope that you will consider the ways in which your enthusiasm and passion for Jesus Christ will be made known in the ministries of Fayetteville First UMC. And I pray that we will not only listen to, but be the voices of hope and joy, rather than the voices of doom and gloom.



21ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

OCTOBER 22, 2023

8:45 and 11:00 AM

[Online link active at 11 AM and after](#)

Exodus 33:12-23; Matthew 22:15-22

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

CURRENT NEWS



Pecan Time!
Holiday Baking
Gifts
Freeze and Enjoy All Year

Pecans! Still only \$8 per bag!

It's pecan time! You pay \$8 for each 12 oz. bag of pecans: that's no price increase from last year ... what a deal! All profits are donated to our UWF charities

Only need a few bags? Buy them at the Christmas Marketplace on Saturday, November 4.

Want to place a larger order for personal use and gifts? [Complete this order form or get one on Sunday next to the bulletin stations.](#) Then drop the form along with your **exact payment** in an envelope marked "Pecan Sales" in the church office or in the collection plate (remember the envelope!) by **Sunday, November 5**. Pecans will be available for pickup in the Fellowship Hall on November 7 and 8 from 1 to 2 PM and after the 11 AM worship service on November 12. Make out checks to **United Women in Faith or UWF**.

We are committed to raising funds for others. With pecans, everybody wins!



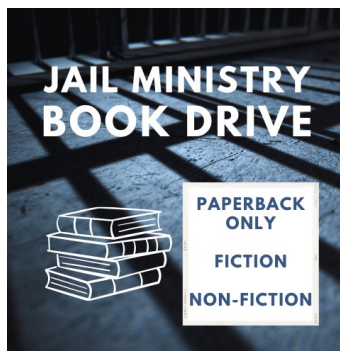
Fasting and Prayer

North Georgia United Methodists are invited to take part in 40 days of prayer and fasting from October 1 to November 9 in a spirit of Consecration for Renewal. [A list of times and emphasis for prayer and fasting can be found by clicking here.](#)

If you would like to be part of an accountability group for this season of fasting and prayer, please contact [Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin](#).

God of those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,

We are blessed. Jesus tells us so when we are weak, weary, and worn. We hunger and thirst for peace in times of conflict, war, and rumors of war. We pray that we might use our hunger and thirsting to seek out the bread of life and the water which does not run dry. Incline our hearts, O Lord, to receive your hope and joy so that we might delight with Christ when we feast at his heavenly banquet. Amen.



**Date extended
to October 29**

Share books with jail ministry - Drive extended

The book drive sponsored by our Jail Ministry has been extended until October 29. Please place any books you wish to donate in the church office or welcome portal collection bins.

Why donate? Locked in their cells all but three hours each day, inmates read a lot for information, entertainment, and growth. We are collecting books to donate to the jail library.

Paperback books only (no hardbound or magazines)

Fiction or non-fiction

Also needed: Plastic reading glasses of any strength



**Wear costumes!
Invite friends to
this two-hour
event!**

Trunk or Treat is next week, October 28!

This year's Trunk or Treat will help our kids celebrate a fun holiday, teach them the story of Joshua, and remind them to take courage, even in the face of fear (Joshua 1:9). You can help make it all happen. Here's how:

- [Reserve a spot for your decorated trunk. Sign up here.](#) Please plan to arrive by 10:30 and the event will end at 1 p.m. If you would like to have candy provided for your trunk you must let Rev. Lawrence know by Thursday afternoon.
- Bring a cake for our fabulous Cake Walk. You can drop off your cake in the Family Life Center Kitchen anytime from Wednesday morning, October 25, up to the day of the event.
- Bring individually wrapped candy to donate. You may drop off candy in the church office.
- Bring your kids, grandkids, neighbors and friends! Let them know what to expect. Our scripture focus for the event is Joshua 1:9. Lunch is provided. We'll have games, a cake walk, music and a really great time together. You can get flyers from the Narthex or the church office if you want to pass the invitation on to friends.



Children go to Azalea Estates, October 29

All children welcome. Wear costumes!

Gather in Children's Room at 9:30; Church bus departs 9:45 and returns after the 10 am service at Azalea Estates by 10:45

Our children's ministry will share some smiles at the Azalea Estates service on Sunday, October 29. Rev. Charles Robinson will lead the service, our children's choir will sing, and all children are invited to "reverse Trick-or-Treat" as they hand out a special treat prepared in advance by our children's ministry. Questions? Contact [Rev. Allyson Lawrence](#).



Acolyte Training and Refresher Event: Wednesday night, November 8

All youth and children, third grade through twelfth, are invited to explore our acolyte ministry. Acolytes lead worship each Sunday by assisting the pastors, lighting the altar table candles, assisting the ushers during the offering, and leading the entire congregation out of the sanctuary as we become the light of Christ in the world. [Let Pastor Allyson know you are interested.](#) Beginners will walk through all the details beside our more seasoned servants on Wednesday, November 8, from 6 to 7 PM. You will be trained in leading the service, fitted for your robe and gloves, and learn to navigate our scheduling system.



Titus II features Penny Miller on November 7

Enjoy a good lunch and entertaining program with friends at our next Titus II on November 7 at noon in the gym. Penny Miller, a singer from First Baptist Church, Fayetteville, will present the program. Menu: Turkey, Dressing & Gravy, Green Beans, Sweet Potato Casserole, Pecan Pie.

Make reservation by Thursday noon on November 2. Call church office or Martha Turner at 770-461-2802.



33rd Annual Christmas Marketplace is almost here!

November 4, 9 AM to 3 PM

We can use your help!

Christmas Marketplace is almost HERE. Our church's largest fundraiser is poised for another record-breaking year. We can use your help! Donate, Bake, Volunteer, Shop and Share!

How you can help:

DONATE your gently-used, sellable donations to the Fellowship Hall starting on Monday, October 30.

[Timeless Treasures Donation Guidelines - Someone else can use what you no longer need!](#)

BAKE your favorite homemade cookies, breads, cupcakes, brownies, muffins, or cakes for the Gingerbread House and bring to C-140 (the nursery) by noon on Friday, Nov. 3.

[Gingerbread House Donation Guidelines - Bring on those homemade goodies!](#)

VOLUNTEERS are always needed to help sort donations in Timeless Treasures, make lunch in the Grill, greet guests, and cleanup.

[Contact Lauren Davis, lauren-davis@comcast.net. She'll find the right job for you!](#)

SHOP for early Christmas gifts, unique handmade items from over 90 vendors.

[These vendors have reserved a booth and more are coming. Just look at the variety!](#)

SHARE the event with family, friends & neighbors.

[Share this flyer on social media or print to share with neighbors and friends.](#)

Hope to see everyone there!



Vendors are getting ready for this BIG event.



SAGE heads to Ellijay on Thursday, October 26

Let's take a trip! Go with our Senior Adults Going Everywhere to Ellijay for an apple orchard adventure and lunch at the Double "L."

Meet at church 8:45 AM; Depart 9 AM Reserve in church office.

Cost: Transportation \$4 plus lunch and any purchases



Charge Conference November 7 at Peachtree City UMC

You are invited to attend a District Charge Conference with other Fayette county churches at Peachtree City UMC on Tuesday, November 7, at 6:30 PM.

A time to say, "Thanks!"



October is clergy appreciation month! Like last year, the Staff Parish Relations Committee encourages FFUMC members to write notes of appreciation to our exceptional and God-given clergy and staff at Fayetteville First. Make your note personal: what did that person do for you this year? Get the kids and youth involved in notes and drawings as well. We've provided a list of the entire team at FFUMC so you can start those notes now and make sure no one is left out of the love.

Please deposit your notes in the Staff Appreciation Basket in the Welcome Center or drop them through the mailbox at the church office no later than Wednesday, October 25. We will present the notes in church on Sunday, October 29.

Thanks to all of you in advance for showing our love and gratitude for the hard-working professionals at FFUMC!

Clergy:

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin
Rev. Allyson Lawrence
Rev. Charles Robinson

Ministry:

Nick Bowden, music
Austin Baur, youth
Jordan Hart, youth
Maria Ruhe, preschool

Administration:

Karen Powell, administration
Michelle Burch, administration
Julie Harp, finance
Janet Gazaway, finance
Joan Aycock, communications

Facilities:

Gary Sampson
Meghan Schultz
Karen Davis

Nursery:

Connie Little
Mia Coward
Claudia Rhodes



Let's eat together on Wednesday Nights

Enjoy meals on Wednesday nights together at 5:15 PM.

What's the draw?

Friendship! Be with people you really like.

Hassle Free! Enjoy meals from local restaurants.

Affordable! Adults \$10, Children under 13: \$7 (pay at door)

Sign up by noon each Monday. Contact the church office, 770-461-4313, admin@fayettevillefirst.com, or fill out a Fellowship Dinner pew card.

October 25 menu — Piccadilly:

Fried Chicken, Potato Casserole, Veggies, Bread, Dessert

Gratitude



Thank you, Shawl Ministry:

I cannot thank you enough for such a nice surprise when this blanket showed up at my door. This is the nicest box I have received. The blanket is beautiful but the prayers it is filled with — even better. I needed them and continue to need them. Thank you again for thinking of me. I just cannot thank you enough. Much love back to you all. — Diannielle Ruoff

Thank you, Flower Ministry:

Thank you for the flowers that were delivered to us last week. We appreciate each of you and the ministry you give to our congregation. It is comforting to know that in times of need there is someone thinking of you and we give thanks for you. — Gaines & Vicki Wallen

I want to thank our church Flower Ministry for giving me flowers during my recovery. They are beautifully arranged and much enjoyed. So grateful for such kind and generous members. — Margaret Whitaker

October 18, 2023 Financials

Operating Budget

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Year to Date receipts | \$972,269.35 |
| Year to Date expenses | \$976,314.61 |
| Difference | -\$4,045.26 |

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week \$1,155.00

141 benevolence clients assisted year to date for a total of \$42,618.55

You can continue your financial support in many ways:

[Online giving: Click here.](#)

Mail check to church or place it in the drop box at the church office.

Use electronic funds transfer with your bank.

Regular Church Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (closed 12-1 p.m. lunch)

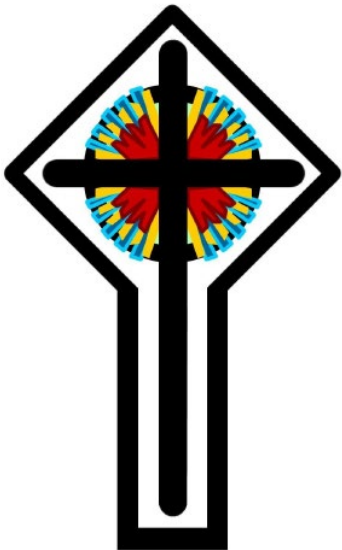
Fridays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Fayetteville First UMC 175 East Lanier Avenue Fayetteville, GA 30214
770-461-4313 FayettevilleFirst.com

AA Meetings: Sundays 3 PM; Mondays 7 PM; Wednesdays 7 PM;
Fridays 7 PM; Saturdays 7 PM

NA Meeting: Thursdays and Saturdays 7 PM

NA Meeting: Thursdays and Saturdays 7 PM



inspired ...

What are apportionments and why do they matter?

Apportioned giving is a term which describes how the money you give to your church each week is divided and distributed throughout the United Methodist Church. Apportionments are fuel for ministry. They enable us to share the concerns of many people.

When we work together as God's children and pool our giving, we are able to see the word "apportionment" not as a constricting budget item but as a vehicle bringing God's grace into our churches, our conference, and beyond.

Paying 100% of our apportionments is a way in which we say that the ministry matters to our neighbors and to our world. This church has paid 100% of its apportionments in the last three years, and is on track to pay 100% this year. That is something to be proud of.

Did you know that over the last four years our apportionments have gone down almost \$50,000? That is due to good budgeting here at home and strong financial leadership at the conference level. Currently, apportionments account for less than 9% of our annual budget. Next year's apportionments are going down another 12%. That means more resources are available here at the church for ministry and mission, while still maintaining ministry here in North Georgia and abroad.

The mission of the United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Through your generosity to this local church and this church's sense of connection, we are truly sharing the love of Christ near and far.



Thank you for your generosity.